

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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FM AMEMBASSY WARSAW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8115

USDOC WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMCONSUL KRAKOW

AMCONSUL POZNAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 WARSAW 7044

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, EGEN, ETRD, PL

SUBJECT: MINISTERIAL CHANGES REAFFIRM GIEREK POLICY

REF A) WARSAW 3293; B) WARSAW 6889

1. SUMMARY. THE IMPORTANT MINISTERIAL SHIFTS ANNOUNCED AT THE SEJM SESSION ON OCTOBER 23 SUGGEST REAFFIRMATION OF GIEREK'S BASIC ECONOMIC AND FOREIGN-TRADE POLICIES AND A FURTHER STRENGTHENING OF HIS GOVERNMENTAL TEAM. THE SEJM ALSO DISCUSSED CSCE IMPLEMENTATION AND ENACTED DOMESTIC LEGISLATION (SEPTEL). TADEUSZ WRZASZCZYK WAS APPOINTED VICE PREMIER AND CHAIRMAN OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION, REPLACING THE AILING MIECZYSLAW JAGIELSKI, WHO STAYS ON AS VICE PREMIER AND MEMBER OF THE PRESIDUM OF THE GOVERNMENT. WRZASZCZYK'S PORTFOLIO AS MINISTER OF MACHINE INDUSTRY WILL BE TURNED OVER TO HIS FORMER DEPUTY, ALEKSANDER KOPEC. ADDITIONALLY, TADEUSZ PYKA, FIRST DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION, WAS ELEVATED TO VICE PREMIER. END SUMMARY.

2. WRZASZCZYK'S APPOINTMENT IS ESPECIALLY INTERESTING. GIEREK
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TOLD SECRETARY MORTON THAT WRZASZCZYK HAD BEEN CRITICIZED

FOR HIS OVERZEALOUS PURSUIT OF TRADE WITH THE WEST. AS MINISTER OF THE MACHINE INDUSTRY, HE HAS BEEN EXTREMELY ENERGETIC IN THIS REGARD. THE PLANNING COMMISSION HAS PLAYED AN INFLUENTIAL ROLE UNDER GIEREK; SOME OF ITS MORE ABLE MEMBERS HAVE MOVED ON TO HIGHER PARTY OR GOVERNMENT POSTS. WRZASZCZYK, AT 43, HAS HAD A DISTINGUISHED CAREER AS AN ENGINEER AND INDUSTRIALIST. HE WAS BROUGHT INTO THE GOVERNMENT BY GIEREK IN DECEMBER, 1970, AND HIS NEW APPOINTMENT SEEMS TO REAFFIRM GIEREK'S COMMITMENT TO RAPID SOCIAL-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BASED EXTENSIVELY ON A FOREIGN-TRADE OPENING TO THE WEST.

3. WRZASZCZYK HAS BEEN A LEADER IN POLAND'S CAMPAIGN TO BASE DOMESTIC GROWTH ON WESTERN TECHNOLOGY THROUGH RAPID EXPANSION OF TRADE. HIS MINISTRY, PERHAPS THE MOST POWERFUL INDUSTRIAL MINISTRY IN POLAND, HAS BEEN THE NATION'S LARGEST IMPORTER OF LICENSES AND EQUIPMENT FROM WESTERN SOURCES. HE HAS TRAVELLED FREQUENTLY TO THE WEST AND HAS TAKEN A PERSONAL INTEREST IN MANY OF THE MAJOR CONTRACTS UNDER DISCUSSION WITH WESTERN SUPPLIERS, E.G., IN THE CASE OF THE US, GM, RCA, SWINDELL-DRESSLER. ALTHOUGH HIS MOVE TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION DETACHES HIM FROM AN INDUSTRIAL POWER BASE, IT SHOULD BROADEN HIS INFLUENCE OVER BOTH FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC ECONOMIC POLICY. THERE IS IRONY IN THE CHANGE, WHICH BRINGS A MAN, WHOSE INDEPENDENCE AND STRENGTH HAS SOMETIMES BEEN A SOURCE OF FRUSTRATION TO THE CENTRAL PLANNERS, TO A POSITION WHICH IS CERTAIN SOONER OR LATER TO BRING HIM INTO CONFLICT WITH SIMILARLY STRONG-MINDED INDUSTRIAL MINISTERS.

4. WRZASZCZYK COMES TO HIS NEW POST AT A TIME OF SOME UNCERTAINTY ABOUT RELATIONS BETWEEN THE PLANNING COMMISSION AND THE LARGE INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZATIONS (WOG'S). WRZASZCZYK'S FIRST-HAND EXPERIENCE WITH THE WOG'S SHOULD BE EXTREMELY USEFUL IN RECONCILING THE CLASHES OF INTEREST WHICH WILL CONTINUE TO ARISE BETWEEN THE CENTRAL PLANNERS AND ECONOMIC POWER CENTERS ELSEWHERE IN THE ECONOMY.

5. WRZASZCZYK IS SUCCEEDED AT THE MINISTRY OF THE MACHINE INDUSTRY BY HIS FIRST VICE MINISTER, ALEKSANDER KOPEC. BORN
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IN 1932 IN WASOWICZOWCE, USSR, KOPEC, LIKE HIS PREDECESSOR, HAS A STRONG TECHNICAL BACKGROUND. FOLLOWING SUCCESSIVE PROMOTIONS IN THE SWIDNICE INDUSTRIAL EQUIPMENT FACTORY AND SUBSEQUENT POSTS AS CHIEF ENGINEER AND FACTORY DIRECTOR AT THE SWIDNICE VEHICLE PLANT, HE BECAME DIRECTOR OF THE LOWER SILESIA ELECTRICAL MACHINERY FACTORIES (DOLMEL) IN 1967. HE WAS APPOINTED VICE MINISTER OF THE MACHINE INDUSTRY IN 1970, AND ROSE TO THE POSITION OF FIRST VICE MINISTER

IN DECEMBER, 1973.

6. AMONG HIS OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES AS VICE MINISTER, KOPEC SUPERVISED PEZETEL, RAND'S PRODUCER OF AIRCRAFT, DIESEL ENGINES, AND GOLF CARTS, AND THE FTO FOR THE POLISH AVIATION INDUSTRY. THIS YEAR KOPEC MET IN PARIS WITH A REPRESENTATIVE OF BOEING AIRCRAFT, WHO FOUND HIM VERY PERSONABLE. HE IS ALSO SAID TO BE A CLOSE PERSONAL FRIEND OF THE NEW GENERAL ELECTRIC MANAGER FOR WESTERN EUROPE (NAME UNKNOWN), WHO IS OF POLISH DESCENT.

7. TADEUSZ PYKA, 45, HAD BEEN CHAIRMAN OF THE SEJM FOREIGN TRADE COMMISSION SINCE MARCH, 1972, UNTIL HIS APPOINTMENT AS FIRST DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION TWO YEARS LATER. HE HAS A LONG RECORD OF PARTY ACTIVITY, INCLUDING 14 YEARS OF WORK WITH GIEREK IN KATOWICE. PYKA SERVED ON THE PROVINCIAL PARTY COMMITTEE THERE UNTIL HIS APPOINTMENT TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION. HE HOLDS DEGREES IN METALLURGICAL ENGINEERING AND ECONOMICS AND IS REGARDED AS BRIGHT AND ENERGETIC. HIS ADVANCE TO A VICE PREMIERSHIP AFTER LESS THAN TWO YEARS OF SERVICE IN A COUNCIL OF MINISTERS OFFICE IS NO LESS THAN METEORIC. ALTHOUGH HIS EXACT DUTIES HAVE NOT BEEN SPELLED OUT, PYKA'S APPOINTMENT MAY BE INTENDED TO RELIEVE THE BURDEN OF THE AILING JAGIELSKI.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 WARSAW 7044

8. JAGIELSKI'S REMOVAL FROM THE PLANNING COMMISSION IS NOT SURPRISING. HE SUFFERED A SERIOUS HEART ATTACK AFTER WIELDING A SHOVEL DURING "PARTY ACTION DAY" LAST MAY (REF A) AND HAD BEEN VIRTUALLY ABSENT FROM THE PUBLIC SCENE UNTIL ONLY A COUPLE OF MONTHS AGO. EXPLAINING THE CHANGE, PREMIER JAROSZEWICZ CITED ONLY THE "BROADENING" OF JAGIELSKI'S DUTIES ON THE GOVERNMENT PRESIDUM AND COUNCIL OF MINISTERS, BUT WE SUSPECT THAT HEALTH WAS A FACTOR. BEFORE HIS ILLNESS, JAGIELSKI HAD BEEN REGARDED AS A POSSIBLE SUCCESSOR TO PREMIER JAROSZEWICZ. HIS RETENTION OF THE OTHER POSTS AND JAROSZEWICZ'S REFERENCE TO INCREASED DUTIES SUGGESTS THAT JAGIELSKI MAY STILL HAVE A FUTURE. HOWEVER, IT SEEMS MORE PROBABLE THAT HE IS BEING KEPT ON IN A TRANSITION ROLE, PERHAPS DUE TO THE INTENSIVE, FIVE-YEAR-PLAN COORDINATION POLAND IS NOW CONDUCTING WITH ITS CEMA PARTNERS.

9. ACTION REQUESTED: WE SUGGEST THAT SECRETARY OF COMMERCE MORTON SEND A CONGRATULATORY LETTER TO WRZASZCZYK. IF THE TEXT IS TELEGRAPHED, THE EMBASSY WILL FORWARD IT IN ANTICIPATION OF THE ARRIVAL OF THE SIGNED ORIGINAL. IN ADDITION, WE ASK THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE CONTACT

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THE FOLLOWING FIRMS, WHOSE MANAGEMENT HAS MET PERSONALLY WITH WRZASZCZYK, TO ADVISE THEM OF THIS MOVE: INTERNATIONAL HARVESTER, GENERAL MOTORS, PULLMAN, RCA, CORNING, CLARK, AND NORTON. THEIR CHIEF EXECUTIVES MAY WISH TO SEND CONGRATULATORY TELEGRAMS TO WRZASZCZYK AND KOPEC.

10. COMMENT: WE BELIEVE THESE SHIFTS MAY HAVE BEEN MOTIVATED IN THE FIRST INSTANCE, EITHER ACTUALLY OR OSTENSIBLY, BY THE QUESTION OF JAGIELSKI'S HEALTH. THEY HAVE BROADER SIGNIFICANCE, HOWEVER, IN LIGHT OF ALLEGED CRITICISM OF SOME ASPECTS OF GIEREK'S DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN-TRADE POLICIES, WHICH WE HAVE REPORTED (REF B). GIEREK HIMSELF HAD RECENTLY CITED CRITICISM OF WRZASZCZYK FOR LOOKING "ONLY WHERE THE SUN SETS." WRZASZCZYK'S PROMOTION MAY REPRESENT ONE ASPECT OF GIEREK'S RESPONSE TO SUCH COMPLAINTS. IN ANY EVENT, WE BELIEVE THAT US BUSINESSES DEALING WITH POLAND WILL WELCOME THE NEW APPOINTMENTS.

11. VICE PREMIERS BECOME AN ABUNDANT COMMODITY WITH THESE CHANGES. THERE ARE NOW NINE, SUPERVISING 25 MINISTRIES AND TWO INDEPENDENT OFFICES. UNLESS THIS INCREASE OF CHIEFS IS DEEMED NECESSARY FOR ADMINISTRATIVE REASONS, WE WOULD EXPECT ONE OR TWO DEPARTURES IN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS. AMONG THEM MIGHT BE JAGIELSKI, FOR THE REASON CITED HEALTH, AND,

POSSIBLY, FRANCISZEK SZLACHCIC, TO COMPLETE THE SAGA OF
HIS DECLINE.
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